

The War Fifty Years Ago

Maneuvers and Fighting In the Atlanta Campaign. General Johnston Places the Confederate Army Behind Defenses Around Dallas—Sherman's Forces Repulsed In Attempts to Break Through—Grant's Army Closes In Northwest of Richmond—Lee Arrives First on the Vantage Ground—Sheridan's Cavalry Captures Cold Harbor—Grant's Advance Everywhere Checked by Lee—Preparations For Battle.

By Capt. GEORGE L. KILMER, Late U. S. A.

On the morning of May 25, fifty years ago, General Johnston's army was upon a new line admirably chosen for defense in the vicinity of Dallas, Ga. The position was upon a series of ridges, covered with woods on their summit, but having open valleys in front, along which Sherman's forces must advance to the attack, wholly without shelter. It covered the roads leading from Dallas to Atlanta, to Marietta and to Acworth, as well as those passing near New Hope church, in the same direction.

Sherman's extreme right was sixteen miles northwest of Dallas, on the Rome and Dallas road. The center, under

division took the direct road from Hanover to Richmond and just before reaching the Totopotomoy encountered the cavalry of Hampton and Fitzhugh Lee.

The Confederates were entrenched at a crossroads known as Hawes' Shop and held Grant at bay all day, but in the evening the line was carried by a brilliant charge. General Custer's Michigan brigade moving up with bands playing. Some prisoners were taken, and from these Sheridan gained information about Lee's main army. The corps of Ewell and Anderson were in position on the Richmond side of the Totopotomoy ready to dispute the crossing of that stream and at the



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GENERAL W. J. HARDEE, C. S. A., AND GENERAL J. B. MCPHERSON, U. S. A., WHOSE FORCES WERE IN CONFLICT BEFORE DALLAS.

Thomas, went forward on roads leading south from Burnt Hickory. A captured dispatch informed Sherman that Johnston was concentrating at Dallas, and he held back his left to allow the right column, under McPherson, to swing around west of Dallas. Hooker's column, on the left, advancing on the New Hope Church road encountered Hood's Confederate corps. His troops were repulsed in successive attacks on Hood's strong position.

Battle at Pickett's Mill, Ga.

Hooker was re-enforced from the center. McPherson continued his march and reached within two miles of Dallas on the west. Sherman directed the Army of the Ohio, under Schofield, and Howard's corps to move around north-east of Dallas. This carried them across the Dallas road leading from Atlanta. During the 25th there was continual skirmishing along the whole line, and on the 27th Howard's corps fought a costly battle at Pickett's Mill, five miles northeast of Dallas.

Howard supposed that he was attacking the extreme right of Johnston's line, with prospect of turning it, whereas he struck only an angle in Hood's line. Heavy re-enforcements reached Hood, and Howard lost 1,500 men.

Grant Close to Richmond.

Fifty years ago the last week in May the Federal army striking at Richmond was at serious disadvantage, being "a-straddle" North Anna river. General Lee was sick and away from camp. He could not direct a blow against the enemy, but often exclaimed in a fevered delirium, "They must not pass us again!" On the 26th Sheridan's cavalry started from the North Anna back over the Pamunkey in the direction of Richmond, followed by the Sixth corps, on a forced march. On the 27th Sheridan, with Gregg's and Torbert's cavalry division, was across the Pamunkey at Hanover town, fifteen miles from Richmond, and had two pontoon bridges ready for infantry. By the 29th the Sixth, Second and Ninth corps were across the river, and Sheridan had pushed out his advance in all directions, particularly toward Richmond and the west.

The proximity to Richmond was indicated by the numerous roads running from the river to that point. There was one good road following all the way down the south bank of the Pamunkey and from there branching off to the southwest. But two formidable streams intervene between the Pamunkey and Richmond—the Totopotomoy and the Chickahominy. The first runs east about two miles south of Hanover town and is crossed by all of the Pamunkey and Richmond roads.

To test the right of way on these numerous roads and find out the position of Lee's main army Sheridan on the 28th sent his divisions out on separate routes, west and south. Gregg's

same time cover the passes of the Chickahominy a few miles nearer Richmond.

Lee Again Gets the Lead.

It seems that Lee had discovered on the night of the 26th that Grant was withdrawing the troops south of the North Anna back to the north bank and also that Sheridan was crossing the Pamunkey at Hanover town, a day's ride from Richmond. Within twenty-four hours Early, with Ewell's corps, had marched by a roundabout course twenty-four miles and placed his line across the roads on which Sheridan was moving. Anderson's corps moved at the same time and



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GENERAL GEORGE A. CUSTER, U. S. A., AND GENERAL FITZHUGH LEE, C. S. A., LEADERS OF OPPOSING CAVALRY AT COLD HARBOR.

about the same distance and formed on Early's right, covering the roads still farther south leading from the Pamunkey to Richmond.

Hill's corps formed on Ewell's left, reaching west as far as the Virginia Central road. By the morning of the 29th Richmond was enveloped on the north and east by the whole Army of Northern Virginia, with a new entrenched line at a distance less than ten miles from the permanent fortifications.

The situation of the opposing armies was again assuming the nature of a deadlock. Grant, having learned of the failure to reach Richmond from the south side of James river, May 12 to 14, ordered a corps of Butler's army to join the main body in front of Lee.

General W. F. Smith's column of re-enforcements, numbering 18,000 men, embarked at City Point and Bermuda Hundred on the 29th, and, sailing down the James then up the York and Pamunkey, reached White House on the 30th and at once began the march up the south bank of the Pamunkey toward Hanover town, where the general headquarters were at this time. Early on the 31st, while on the march, Smith received word from Grant that the enemy seemed to be moving out on the Mechanicsville road from Richmond to get between him (Smith) and the Army of the Potomac and also instructions to march close along the Pamunkey.

The union of Smith's corps with the army was now an important consideration, and such a union, as well as the

control of White House as a base, depended upon the control of the crossroads at Old Cold Harbor, seven miles east of Richmond and halfway from that city to the Pamunkey river. All the roads from the Pamunkey, including that from White House at Hanover town, connect at Cold Harbor with Richmond by roads across the Chickahominy at Mechanicsville and over several bridges lower down the stream.

On the 31st Sheridan's cavalry went out in force down the Pamunkey and far out on the Federal left toward the Chickahominy. Fitzhugh Lee's cavalry were found in force at Cold Harbor, but the road down the Pamunkey toward White House was clear and Smith's column was advancing. The force at Cold Harbor appeared to be menacing the Federal army—namely, to advance along the White House road to cut off Smith.

Torbert's division attacked the cavalry which held the fort and, pressing it back some distance beyond Cold Harbor, came upon the Confederate infantry trenches across the Mechanicsville and Richmond road. The nearest Federal infantry in position at this time was Warren's Fifth corps, which lay north and south about three miles above Cold Harbor and across another Richmond road running from the Pamunkey to Richmond, parallel with the Mechanicsville road. In front of Warren was Ewell's corps, entrenched.

Sheridan Captures Cold Harbor.

On meeting the infantry beyond Cold Harbor Sheridan sent word to headquarters and also directed Torbert to withdraw his line beyond Cold Harbor, but before the order could be carried out word came to Sheridan to hold Cold Harbor at all hazards, and at the same time the Sixth corps, under Wright, was ordered from its position on the Federal flank above Hanover town to Cold Harbor.

Although it was not known at Grant's headquarters at this time, Anderson's corps was now strong along between Cold Harbor and Richmond, with one division, Kershaw's, directly in front of the key point. Sheridan, however, placed his men (dismounted) in trenches, sent out skirmishers and passed the night of the 31st waiting the arrival of the Sixth corps.

A long skirmish was opened about daylight on June 1, and the cavalry held their position, anxious only about the waste of ammunition. About 8 o'clock the Confederates advanced to the charge with two infantry brigades. The carbines of Merritt and the artillery repulsed the advance. A second charge was made, and that was repulsed also, and before the attack could be renewed in force the Sixth corps was on the ground. In a short time this corps had got into position, covering the roads through Cold Harbor, toward White House and to Dispatch station on the Chickahominy, where the Richmond and York River railroad crosses.

Smith had also been ordered to move the Eleventh corps over from the Pamunkey river road to the left and join the Sixth corps. This was done during the day, and the united army was now on one long line from the Chickahominy, east of Richmond, around to the Central railroad on the north. The road to White House landing was also secured, and the movement of the corps on the right of the line was begun with a view to concentrate around

Grant. Sheridan's cavalry repulsed the attack and was relieved by the Sixth corps, commanded by General H. G. Wright. But for a blunder in orders from headquarters the Old Cold Harbor crossroads would have been in Grant's secure possession by noon May 31, and the history of the battle known as Cold Harbor would have been different.

The commander of the Eighteenth corps, General W. F. Smith, received an order the night of the 30th to march to New Castle, a point near the Pamunkey fifteen miles northeast from Richmond and seven or eight from Old Cold Harbor. The order should have said New Cold Harbor, which was one mile west of Old Cold Harbor and that much nearer Richmond. Roads crossed there also, the ground was elevated and, strongly held by Federals May 31 or even June 1, would have covered Old Cold Harbor against Confederate designs.

Smith was within two hours' march of Old Cold Harbor. In trying to make New Castle, getting his orders corrected, resting and feeding his troops after a tedious march in sweltering heat, time was lost, and he only reached Old Cold Harbor June 1, twenty-four hours late. Meanwhile the Confederates had arrived there in force and fortified a ridge midway between the two Cold Harbors.

Confederates Build Barriers.

The New Cold Harbor road ascended a slope just west of Old Cold Harbor, passed through the open, then pine woods, across a swampy lowland, on over a wooded ridge. The swamp was three-fourths of a mile in length, parallel to the army lines; on the east a



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GENERAL W. F. SMITH, U. S. A., AND GENERAL W. S. HANCOCK, U. S. A., CORPS LEADERS AT COLD HARBOR.

ridge of pine woods gave shelter to Confederate outposts. During June 1 four Confederate divisions marched down and built breastworks on the ridge west of the swamp; also hasty barricades of logs and limb slashings, or abatis, in the fringe of woods east of the swamp.

Smith's corps took position on the right or north side of the New Cold Harbor road, Wright's on the left. Wright reported to Smith that the Confederates were about to attack his left flank and he needed support.

Forward Against Fate!

At 6 a. m. June 1, the Confederate line of battle had been a mere figment, one small division of re-enforcements hurrying to another point, halted there by a timely order to keep the Federals east of New Cold Harbor. This was General Hoke's from Richmond, and its arrival from that direction had caused Wright to suppose that his left was menaced. At 6 p. m. Hoke's line had been extended on the north by the divisions of Kershaw, Pickett and Fields of Anderson's corps, and the whole ridge west of the swamp was fairly well fortified and manned.

Needless to say that the Federals knew not what they were going against when the Eighteenth corps divisions of Stevens and Brooks on the north of the New Cold Harbor road, and the Sixth corps divisions of Ricketts, Russell and Getty south of the road, sprang forward across three to four hundred yards of open. The experience of Russell's right brigade, which moved to the assault on the left of Ricketts' division, may be taken as an example of what the Confederates had stored up to greet their foes at Cold Harbor.

Ten Minutes of Carnage.

Colonel Emory Upton's brigade was among the oldest and best seasoned units in the Army of the Potomac. Organized in 1841 by General H. W. Sumner and led by him and his successor, General Joseph J. Bartlett, until after the battle of Chancellorsville, it had



MAJOR JAMES HUBBARD, SECOND CONNECTICUT, WHOSE BATTALION LED OFF AT COLD HARBOR.

shared in the heaviest fighting of the army. After Chancellorsville Upton took command. The brigade, comprising four veteran regiments, emerged from Spotsylvania only 500 strong. It gave its fighting strength the Second Connecticut heavy artillery, 1,200

strong, was a signed to it.

The Connecticut men all came from one county, Litchfield. Cold Harbor was to give them their baptism of fire. Ricketts' line charged over swamps and opens, through woods and up hills, breaking through the slashings and barricades of the Confederate outer line. Advance beyond that point would expose Ricketts' men to cross fire on the left, and Upton was ordered to crash through, draw that fire from Ricketts' to his own and silence it.

The Second Connecticut stood ready, waiting for the word "Forward!" Colonel Elisha S. Kellogg had instructed the three majors how to handle their battalions. The men were appealed to to uphold the honor of the "old brigade." Goodbys were said by comrades, neighbors, even brothers, and messages entrusted to one another for the folks at home. Formation was in column of battalions. Major James Hubbard took the lead with companies A, B, E and K. The distance to the enemy's breastworks was 400 yards across open space, with rising slope.

Relying solely on the bayonet for execution, the columns moved on. As the Connecticut men neared their works the Confederates turned their artillery and muskets upon them with terrible execution. Nevertheless Hubbard's line broke through the outer works. Gaps torn in the ranks were instantly closed. Kellogg led forward to the second breastwork, which was protected by a tangle of slashings.

The second and third battalions, led by Major J. Q. Rice and Major W. B. Ellis, followed the track of the first for a time. They were struck by flank fire, however, as soon as Hubbard's



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line got through and halted under a slight shelter as the ground afforded. Major Ellis was wounded in the first fire. Colonel Kellogg was followed by scores of officers and soldiers acting individually to and upon the slashings. There the leader fell with two bullets through his head. He had previously been shot twice at the first breastwork. Captain L. Wadsworth was killed. Captain J. Deane and Lieutenants B. H. Camp, H. E. Tuttle and C. B. Hatch wounded. This charge to the finish lasted but ten minutes.



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Ricketts' division carried the main intrenchments for a distance, but was driven out after dark. Devens' division on Ricketts' right got no farther than the slashings of the main line. Getty's Sixth corps division charged on the left of Russell, but got no farther than the first breastwork. Russell and Getty together lost 1,200 killed and wounded. Of these 325, or more than one-fourth, were of the Second Connecticut, which lost 129 killed and 190 wounded, fully two-thirds of the loss falling on Hubbard's leading battalion in Devens' and Brooks' divisions 1,000 fell. Ground held by these divisions after the charge was intrenched as defense of the Old Cold Harbor crossroads. Subsequently the trenches were extended two miles to the south and the same distance north. General McMahon of the Sixth corps staff said that the prostrate Connecticut forms in their untarnished blue described an "oblique angle with the apex to the front," showing that in the race to death Kellogg had but a handful at his back, but the column ever broadened to a target that couldn't live on that fire swept field.

Shifting the Lines of Battle.

While the battle raged around Cold Harbor June 1, between Wright's and Smith's Federal corps and Anderson's Confederate, Warren's Fifth corps extended the line north of Smith to Bethesda church, where Burnside's Ninth corps carried it toward the Totopotomoy. Ewell confronted Warren and Burnside, and Hill opposed Hancock's corps north of that stream. The night of June 1 Hancock moved down older children in the home, and how

on Wright's left, extending Grant's line toward the Chickahominy. Lee moved Hill and General J. C. Breckinridge's fresh division south to confront Hancock. Warren closed up on the south to Smith, and Burnside closed up on Warren. Ewell's corps under Jubal Early while moving from Bethesda church, Grant ordered a charge all along the seven mile line of battle the morning of June 3.

Promptly at the hour named Smith's three divisions rushed forward in the face of artillery fire and carried the front line of works. Wright's three divisions did the same, but were repulsed at the second or main line of Lee's intrenchments. Barlow's division of Hancock's corps carried the front line, but was speedily driven back. Gibbon's division on Barlow's right fared no better. Hancock lost 3,000 men. General Law, Confederate, said the slaughter was unparalleled.

After 6,000 had fallen orders came to renew the attack, but the whole army, as of one mind, united in a colossal mutiny and refused to move.

COE

Mr. and Mrs. Dave Genung and little son visited in Port Byron Sunday at the home of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Genung.

Mr. and Mrs. John Daily and daughters, Dorothy, Mary, Grace and Ruth, were guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Elpper Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Lipard of Hillsdale are spending this week visiting their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elpper.

S. L. Woodburn received a carload of lumber to build a large new barn on his farm.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mahlstedt spent Sunday at the home of his mother, Mrs. P. Mahlstedt.

Mr. and Mrs. John Durbin welcomed another little son to their family circle last Friday. They now have four sons.

Miss Bernice Resser of Moline is visiting with relatives at the homes of Mrs. Warren Walker and John Durbin.

Waldo Lees and Miss Mary Sample spent several days in Coal Valley last week visiting with relatives.

Children's day exercises will be held at Bethel church next Sunday. Everybody is invited to attend.

Mrs. Hannah Johnson of Erie visited with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Stanley last Thursday.

Farmers are beginning to make hay, but the wet weather is interfering.

The beautiful farm home of Fred Fillmer is now nearing completion. The house, barn, crib and other buildings are almost finished, and in a short time will be ready for occupancy. This is one of the finest new homes in this vicinity, beautiful for its location and surroundings. The place will be occupied by Mr. Fillmer's son Louis.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Miller of near Erie were Sunday guests at the home of Mrs. Miller's sister, Mrs. Charles White.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Fillmer entertained the P. Y. P. club Saturday evening by giving them a "barn frolic" in their large new barn, which was just

completed. About 50 young people were present, and enjoyed a fine time. The hostess served a nice lunch. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Woodburn will entertain the club at the next meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. N. Pearsall and children were shopping in Rock Island Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Elpper and children were guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elpper.

Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Russell took Roy Palmer to Watertown last Sunday, where he is taking treatment for nose and ear trouble.

Claire Golden, Truman Shafer and Harry Genung are home for their summer vacation from Cornell college.

Mrs. Ira Richards of Watertown visited several days here at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ernest Gerkin.

Miss Louise Gerkin is visiting with friends in Rock Island this week.

Mrs. Cora Lew of Cordova is at the home of John Durbin helping care for Mrs. Durbin.

Harry Hutton was in Rock Island last Saturday on business.

Mrs. Henry Hutton is recovering after several weeks' illness. Her many friends are glad to see her around again.

Rev. and Mrs. Carnell will go to Thompson, Ill., next Tuesday, when Rev. Mr. Carnell will be ordained as a minister of the gospel.

Mrs. Mabel Mahlstedt was hostess to the Mothers' club, which met at their home last Thursday. A nice attendance was present. The subject for the program was "How to keep the children in the home, and how

Commencement and Wedding Gifts

are shown in great variety at our store, we have the largest line of sterling silverware in this vicinity. We have just received four new designs in table flatware. Our line of jewelry, diamonds, and watches are the best to be had; we specialize on fine first water diamonds and show them from 1/4 karat to 3 karats.

Ladies' bracelet watches are the proper thing for this spring and we are showing a large line, ranging in price from \$12.00 to \$75.00.

J. Ramser's Sons Jewelers

to amuse the smaller ones in the home." Papers on the subject were read by Mrs. Louis Stanley, Mrs. Myra Gerkin and Mrs. Augusta Elpper followed by discussions by Mrs. Viola Marshall and Mrs. Ada Elpper, who spoke interestingly on the subject. Little Miss Lucy Mahlstedt favored the club with a recitation. All enjoyed the afternoon very much. The hostess, assisted by Mrs. Emma Fillmer served a nice luncheon. The next meeting will be on the third Thursday in July at the home of Mrs. Augusta Elpper. All members and friends are invited to be present.

ZUMA

Miss Viola Eckstrom departed Tuesday for Jacksonville, Ill., where she will attend summer school.

Ruth Wainwright, who was quarantined at Rapids City with smallpox came home Sunday after an absence of six weeks.

Ruth and Allie Beal went to Rid Falls Friday and visited with Oma Karr and family, returning Saturday.

Mrs. Sheldon Mumma visited Moline friends from Saturday until Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anthony of Moline visited relatives here Sunday.

Gerhardt Bach was a business caller in Osborn Tuesday.

Verna Mumma is visiting her brother Holmer at Sherrard and attending the chautauqua now in session at that place.

Bernice Nicholson of Moline is spending the week with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Beal.

Mildred Donahoo of East Moline is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Donahoo.

Mrs. Bianch Beal spent a few days with her mother in Moline this week.

Rev. Mr. Aten and family have returned from Panama and Kewanee where they visited their daughters during the smallpox quarantine.

Mrs. Mamie Wainwright was a business caller in Joslin Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Schuster of Rock Island spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Walther.

Mr. and Mrs. Jude Donahoo and Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Donahoo of Moline and Miss Mary Dillen of Rock Island were guests of Mr. and Mrs. William Nicholson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stunn visited friends in Watertown Sunday.

The five automobiles with 25 of Chicago's business men passed over the Rock river valley route Wednesday.

Miss Anna Swegler is at home to spend her vacation.

Frank Bryant and family attended Children's day exercises at Port Byron last Sunday.

ECZEMA ON SCALP ITCHED AND BURNED

Would Fester and Come to Head. Could Not Sleep. Hair Fell Out. Cuticura Soap and Ointment Cured in Two Weeks.

R. F. D. No. 2, Seymour, Mo.—"My scalp broke out with the pimples at the start. They itched and burned so much that I was compelled to scratch them and they would fester and come to a head and break out again. The trouble was attended by such burning and itching I could not sleep, also when I sweat it burned the same. My hair fell out gradually and the scalp kept rough and dry with itching and burning. After about two years the pimples broke out between my shoulders. My clothing irritated them. I was troubled with this eczema five or six years.

I tried everything that was recommended without any benefit until I used the Cuticura Soap and Ointment according to directions, and Cuticura Soap and Ointment cured me sound and well in two weeks." (Signed) S. L. Killian, Nov. 22, 1912.

For pimples and blackheads the following is most effective and economical treatment: Gently smear the affected parts with Cuticura Ointment, on the end of the finger, but do not rub. Wash off the Cuticura Ointment in five minutes with Cuticura Soap and hot water and continue bathing for some minutes. This treatment is best on rising and retiring. At other times use Cuticura Soap freely for the toilet and bathing, and to assist in preventing inflammation, irritation and clogging of the pores. Sold everywhere. Liberal sample of each mailed free, with 32-p. Skin Book. Address post-card "Cuticura, Dept. T, Boston."

*Men who shave and shampoo with Cuticura Soap will find it best for skin and scalp advertisement.